

## **Smelt and Splittail Update for 10/24 Ops Meeting**

### **Splittail**

Number of Splittail taken at the facilities for October

The comment period for a new study done for the listing of the splittail closed on October 1. The final rule will be published by January 31, 2002.

### **Delta Smelt**

Number of smelt taken at the facilities during the month of October

#### *Recovery Status*

Restoration of delta smelt should be assessed when the species satisfies distributional and abundance criteria. Distributional criteria include: (1) catches of delta smelt in all zones 2 of 5 consecutive years, (2) in at least two zones in 1 of the remaining 3 years, and, (3) in at least one zone for the remaining 2 years. Abundance criteria are: delta smelt numbers or total catch must equal or exceed 239 for 2 out of 5 years and not fall below 84 for more than two years in a row. Distributional and abundance criteria can be met in different years. If abundance and distributional criteria are met for a five-year period the species will be considered restored. Delta smelt will meet the remaining recovery criteria and be considered for delisting when abundance and distributional criteria are met for a five-year period that includes two successive extreme outflow years, with one year dry or critical. Delisting is contingent on the placement of legal mechanisms and interagency agreements to manage the CVP, SWP, and other water users to meet these criteria. Both criteria depend on data collected by DFG during the FMWT, during September and October.

#### *Current Status*

The attached handouts show the recovery update for delta smelt as well as results from the 2001 Fall Midwater Trawl Survey (MWTR). (Both handouts are from DFG)

In the table entitled "Delta Smelt Recovery Index," Distributional and Abundance Criteria exceedance is shown for Delta smelt. These numbers are determined by DFG's Fall MWTR survey. The yellow highlighted numbers indicate when the distribution criteria are met (A map showing the stations used for the distribution criteria is shown on the second page).

The abundance criteria is also shown in the table. If these numbers are not met for a given year, the five year recovery period starts again.

A further requirement is the water year type must include two successive extreme outflow years during the five year recovery period, with one year dry or critical. As can be seen in the table, smelt distribution and abundance criteria have been met lately, but none of the last 5 years have been dry or critical.

More details on the smelt recovery plan can be found in the *Recovery Plan for the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Native Fishes*, which is available online at:  
[http://ecos.fws.gov/recovery\\_plan/pdf\\_files/1996/961126.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/recovery_plan/pdf_files/1996/961126.pdf)

# Delta Smelt Recovery Index

Distribution Criteria				Abundance Criteria		Water Year Type*
Criteria Year	North Central Delta	Sacramento River and Montezuma Slough	Suisun Bay	Recovery Index	2yr average	
	2 of 11	5 of 9	6 of 15			
1967	2	8	6	139	na	Wet
1968	8	6	9	251	195	Below
1969	0	7	11	128	190	Wet
1970	7	8	12	589	359	Wet
1971	8	7	13	352	471	Wet
1972	9	8	12	551	452	Below
1973	4	9	9	305	na	Above
1974	Not sampled					Wet
1975	5	5	12	239	272	Wet
1976	2	5	2	22	131	Critical
1977	5	5	0	146	84	Critical
1978	0	6	11	108	127	Above
1979	Not sampled					Below
1980	3	8	10	312	na	Above
1981	0	6	8	78	195	Dry
1982	1	6	6	37	58	Wet
1983	0	4	5	17	27	Wet
1984	0	3	9	51	34	Wet
1985	0	3	2	29	40	Dry
1986	1	5	10	70	50	Wet
1987	1	4	1	72	71	Dry
1988	0	3	2	67	70	Critical
1989	4	5	6	76	72	Dry
1990	0	6	4	81	79	Critical
1991	3	6	4	171	126	Critical
1992	1	5	0	26	99	Critical
1993	4	6	12	400	213	Above
1994	1	5	1	19	210	Critical
1995	1	7	14	252	136	Wet
1996	2	4	8	28	140	Wet
1997	1	4	3	62	45	Wet
1998	0	7	12	169	116	Wet
1999	5	7	9	322	246	Wet
2000	3	9	10	265	294	Above
2001	3	8	6	314	290	

## Abundance Criteria:

Delta smelt abundance must meet or exceed 239 in 2 out of 5 years and the 2-year running average must never fall below 84

If any of these conditions are not met, the five year recovery period will start again.

## Distribution Criteria:

- 1) site criteria must be met in all zones 2 out of 5 years
- 2) in at least two zones in 1 of their remaining 3 years
- 3) in at least one zone for the remaining 2 years.

2 year average fell below 84, five year criteria period restarted

Current five year period.

\*based upon Sacramento River Index

## Results from the Fall Midwater Trawl Survey

The recovery index is calculated using a subset of the MWT sampling stations and includes only the September and October raw catches. The year 2001 recovery index is 314. Recovery criteria indicates the index must be above 239 for 2 out of five years, the 1999 recovery index was 322 and the 2000 index was 265. The current five year span includes 1998 which had a recovery index of 169.

The distribution criteria for recovery was also met for year 2001. Catch and distribution of the delta smelt for the recovery period are shown below. Most of the smelt (~80% of the recovery index) were collected during the October survey in the Sacramento River near Decker Island.

